

# SW Boones Ferry Bridge and Restoration Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

Updated January 30, 2020

Thank you for your support of the SW Boones Ferry Bridge & Restoration Project.

This important project will build a new bridge on SW Boones Ferry Road where it crosses over Tryon Creek. The new bridge will replace the existing small culvert that cannot handle large flows of water during storms, blocking fish and wildlife passage. The new bridge will create and restore important connections for fish, wildlife, and people. It will connect trails and pedestrian facilities in the area, help reduce flooding risk, and restore important habitat.

### PROJECT BENEFITS

- Provide a safe way for fish and wildlife to pass under Boones Ferry.
- Connect and improve trails, add a stair connection up to the roadway, and a widened shoulder to the North Creek trailhead.
- Improve stream flow and reduce flooding risk. Install large wood and rock to protect fish habitat, reduce erosion and improve water quality.
- Provide a safer way to cross Boones Ferry under the bridge and new sidewalks across the new bridge.

We appreciate your patience during construction for the short-term inconvenience.

### THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

This project is funded and supported by multiple agencies, including a generous grant from Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program.

Many thanks to our project and community partners, including: Portland Water Bureau, Portland Bureau of Transportation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Portland Parks & Recreation, Friends of Tryon Creek State Park, SW Trails PDX, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association. All of these groups and organizations have championed this project for well over a decade, and we are appreciative of the continued support!

### CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

- When will construction start and how long will it take?
  - Early construction activities will begin on February 7, 2020
  - Major construction will start on March 19, 2020
  - Major construction will include closing SW Boones Ferry for 7-months

## **BUS ROUTE**

- What will happen to TriMet bus route #38? Where will the new route direct people? Where will the temporary bus stops be located?
  - Prior to the start of construction, TriMet will notify their users of their plan to reroute bus line #38. Information on changes to the route and new locations for bus stops will be posted at current bus stops by Trimet. Trimet will conduct additional outreach to help ensure that riders will be informed of any route changes.
  - Additionally, once TriMet provides information on the temporary route for bus line #38, Environmental Services will also help spread the word using the project webpage, mailings, project email updates, social media and Nextdoor.

## **BIKE ROUTE**

- I commute with my bike. Is there an alternative way for bikers to commute?
  - SW Boones Ferry Road is not a designated bike route, therefore a signed detour for bicycles is not provided for this project. The established signed detour route is for all transportation modes, including bicyclists. Therefore, bicyclists are expected to either follow the signed detour route or find their preferred detour route. For reference there are existing bike & walk maps provided by Bureau of Transportation here, <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/39402>.
- Will a temporary bridge be available for bike commuters and pedestrians?
  - The construction zone will be quite challenging. For the public's safety and the safety of our crews at the construction site, we will not allow any commuter/bicycle/pedestrian access in the construction area at any time. We will not be able to provide temporary bridges or other access to or through the

## **UTILITY SERVICES**

- What will happen to my mail, delivery services, and trash service during construction?
  - Garbage haulers, mail, and delivery services will still provide service even when construction or other activities in the public right-of-way may make their route more challenging. These community partners have experience working with construction and will make adjustments to ensure that your service is not interrupted.
  - For garbage containers, we recommend you label your containers with your property address to help ensure that your garbage bins are returned to your property. If you experience any delays or issues with garbage collection, please contact your garbage hauler directly.
  - To find your garbage and recycling company and phone number, use the online tool at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/54938>.

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ACCESS**

- What kind of traffic control/calming efforts will be in place?
  - Speed bumps and shoulder improvements have been installed along the designated detour route on SW 35th Avenue and SW Stephenson Street. Please be considerate of using local streets and be cautious driving through school zones.
  - Prior to the road closure, it is the contractor's obligation to install signage per the City approved Traffic Control Plan (TCP). In addition, they will be required to install reader boards along SW Boones Ferry Road alerting the public the closure will happen 10-14 days prior to the closure. We still expect there to be an adjustment period the first week or two after the closure. After two weeks, the City will investigate the TCP to make sure it is working according to plan, and we can address any concerns that still remain at that time. During the closure, there will be signs installed reading "ROAD CLOSED TO THRU TRAFFIC. LOCAL ACCESS ONLY". In addition, there will be flaggers present at SW Arnold and SW Boones Ferry Road that will significantly delay vehicles entering SW Arnold from SW Boones Ferry Road. Flaggers will be present during the entire closure as the entrance to the construction site is at this location.
  
- How will PBOT manage the commuters taking smaller residential routes?
  - There are very few suitable alternate routes in this area, and none of them will provide noticeable time savings over using the designated detour route or finding an alternative that avoids the area altogether. Neighbors should expect a slight increase in traffic on residential streets during the closure, but most of the detoured traffic will either take the signed detour route or change their commute pattern to avoid the neighborhoods adjacent to SW Boones Ferry Rd.
  
- Why did you choose SW Stephenson Street and SW 35th Avenue as the recommended detour route?
  - The SW Stephenson Street/SW 35th Avenue/SW Taylors Ferry Road detour route was deemed appropriate due to the existing road classification of SW Boones Ferry Road (a District Collector Street), its current roadway geometry, and its speed limit of 35mph.
  - PBOT will typically detour traffic of an existing road classification to a similar roadway classification. In this case, a similar District Collector Street classification does not exist in this area. Therefore, we have to use Neighborhood Collector Streets, such as SW Stephenson Street and SW 35th Avenue, which is one step lower than the District Collector Street.
  - Although SW Arnold Street and SW Lancaster Road are both classified as Neighborhood Collector Streets, similar to SW Stephenson Street, SW Stephenson Street has good site lines and a speed limit of 30 mph. Additionally, the roadway geometry characteristics are similar to SW Boones Ferry Road and can handle additional traffic during the detour. For this reason, the SW

Stephenson Street/SW 35th Avenue connection was chosen as most appropriate for the detour.

- PBOT will be monitoring the recommended detour route once the closure is in place and, if needed, make any necessary additions or changes to the traffic control plan. This usually occurs about two weeks after the closure so that drivers have a chance to get accustomed to the changes.
- Can you put speed bumps on SW Arnold Street so that cars do not travel and speed excessively?
  - Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) will not approve the installation of speed cushions on SW Arnold Street until the SW Boones Ferry Bridge and Restoration project is completed. The complete Boones Ferry Road closure between SW Arnold Street and SW Comus Court will compromise emergency response times from Station 10 into residential locations south of the closure. Water service to specific hydrants in the affected area is anticipated which will also impact suppression fire flow.
  - PF&R is currently developing a modified fire response plan for the February 2020 closure, which will heavily depend on SW Arnold Street to optimize emergency response times during the project. It is PF&R's position that installing speed cushions on the critical Major Emergency Route of SW Arnold Street prior to the complete closure of SW Boones Ferry Road, (also a Major Emergency Route), would not meet their response needs.
- Can you put up temporary traffic calming signs for the smaller local streets during construction?
  - Because we are encouraging commuters to take the recommended detour route, and the traffic analysis anticipates very little overflow traffic to surrounding smaller streets, we will not be placing temporary traffic calming signs for the smaller local streets.
- Can you place a 4-way stop sign at SW Arnold Street and SW Lancaster Road?
  - For this project, we will not be changing the existing 2-way stop sign at SW Arnold Street and SW Lancaster Road to a 4-way stop sign. Traffic volumes and patterns at this location do not warrant the installation of a 4-way stop.
- Can you do maintenance work on the roads prior to closure?
  - Unfortunately, this is outside of Environmental Services' project scope. If you do notice these road issues, you may report it by calling PBOT's maintenance hotline at 503-823-1700, emailing [pdxroads@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:pdxroads@portlandoregon.gov), or accessing the PDXReporter online reporting tool at [www.pdxreporter.org](http://www.pdxreporter.org).

- Can you conduct tree trimming on the detour route so commuters will have a better line of sight since traffic will increase on those routes?
  - PBOT Traffic Control staff will assess the detour routes prior to construction to identify any issues with sightlines and trees. If they identify concerns, they can direct crews to trim trees.
  - If you have a concern around overhanging trees disrupting visibility, you may report it directly by calling PBOT's maintenance hotline at 503-823-1700, emailing [pdxroads@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:pdxroads@portlandoregon.gov), or accessing the PDXReporter online reporting tool at [www.pdxreporter.org](http://www.pdxreporter.org).
  - For more information around tree and shrub trimming on public right-of-ways, visit <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/319702>
  
- Will we be able to exit north on SW Boones Ferry Road toward SW Terwilliger Boulevard during the construction?
  - Community members that live north of the closure will be able to commute north on SW Boones Ferry Road toward SW Terwilliger Boulevard. However, because of the proximity to the project site, you may experience traffic delays.
  
- How will people that live north of the construction zone move south?
  - During construction, people that live north of the closure on SW Boones Ferry road can take the recommended detour route to move south of the construction zone or choose a different route that meets their need.

## **POLLUTION AND CONTAMINATION**

- What evidence is there that this project will improve habitat and help restore salmon to Tryon Creek?
  - The replacement of the SW Boones Ferry Culvert was initially identified in the 2005 Fanno and Tryon Creeks Watershed Management Plan and prioritized in the 2008 Fanno/Tryon Water Quality Report. You can access both of these reports from our website located here, <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/61717>.
  - The goals of the project include more than just fish passage, i.e. upgrading an undersized culvert, providing pedestrian and wildlife passage under the new bridge, and protecting an exposed sanitary sewer pipe. We recognize that there will be temporary impacts to neighbors' quality of life, but we hope that the broad range of improvements will improve the quality of human life and wildlife for the long term.
  - The Tryon Creek Report Card, <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/743047>, provides additional information regarding water quality and other conditions in Tryon Creek. This report provides an at-a-glance summary of the complex scientific information that is collected from our long-term monitoring program.
  - Overall, Tryon Creek is one of the major remaining free-flowing tributaries of the Lower Willamette River, and about 21% of the watershed is in parks and open space. Tryon Creek is a prime example of an important urban watershed that feeds the Willamette River and has many valuable natural resources that benefit

Portlanders. The Tryon Creek watershed provides shelter to abundant wildlife, including more than 60 species of birds that reside in the watershed for at least part of the year.

- This project is an important part of restoring the creek to a more natural flow and will provide significant habitat benefit for plants, animals, and aquatic species.
- For additional information regarding Tryon Creek Watershed projects, visit here, <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/62087>.

#### **OTHER RESTORATION ACTIVITIES**

- Will you daylight Tryon Creek at the head of SW 4th Avenue trailhead into Tryon Creek State Park?
  - The SW 4th Avenue Trailhead is outside of our project area, so we will not be doing work at this location as part of this project.
  - The Tryon Creek Watershed Council is pursuing funding for replacing the culvert at this location. You can find out more about their efforts by [visiting](https://tryoncreek.org/) their website at <https://tryoncreek.org/>.
  - Environmental Services has worked on various projects in Tryon Creek that addresses multiple goals to improve watershed health and meet regulatory obligations in Tryon Creek.
  - For more information on current, upcoming, and completed projects in Tryon Creek, visit <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/62087>.